NEWS/A20
PNP urged to file charges vs Pasig mayor for 'cover-up'

WORLD/A10
European Union backs Denmark in row over Muhammad cartoons

METRO/A22
P53 million worth of dangerous drugs seized from Indian trader in Parañaque raid

NEWS/A3
23rd SM mall opens today in Sta. Rosa Laguna

Lame Edsa rites irk FVR; may not accept invitation

By Nikko Dizon

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL RAMOS YESTERday lashed out at President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration for its plan to hold low-key celebration to mark the 20th anniversary next week of the historic People Power I.

Without waiting for reporters to question him on Malacañang's plans to mark Edsa I,

LAME/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, February 17, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 71 P18 website: www.inq7.net

RP health care system near collapse, 4 senators warn

"URGENT AND COMPREHENSIVE" ACTION must be taken to save a health care system that is about to collapse because more than half of the country's health practitioners have left to work abroad, four senators said yesterday.

Citing a World Health Organization report, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier, Pia Cayetano and Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada said the Philippines had become the second

SENATORS/A6



GENERALS AT THE PALACE. President Arroyo presides over a command conference on Thursday where she ordered the military to step up the offensive against the "communist terrorists" whom the government considers the No. 1 enemy of the state. The conference also took up the Magdalo problem but "only in passing," according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and AFP Chief of Staff Generoso Senga.

Erap may be released

'Oplan Heckle' uncovered, say two generals

GOVERNMENT TROOPS LOYAL TO PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo have uncovered a fresh plot by rogue soldiers to grab power this weekend, the Reuters news agency reported yesterday.

The agency reported two senior unidentified generals as saying that Magdalo members were planning a mass escape and disgruntled soldiers were plotting to hold military commanders hostage at a Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming in Baguio City. The plot, dubbed "Oplan Heckle," had reportedly led Ms Arroyo to skip the homecoming, the agency said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and two other military officers denied, however, that the President had planned to attend the homecoming.

"The President by tradition does not attend PMA reunions, only graduation ceremonies," he told the Inquirer. "This will not be the first time she will not attend the PMA reunion."

The Inquirer has learned that the last time she attended a PMA reunion was in 2003.

OPLAN A20



OCT. 5, 2000: Sen. Teofisto Guingona drops a bombshell accusing President Estrada of taking multimillion-peso "jueteng" payoffs. Feb. 14, 2006: Like old buddies, funny Valentines.

Palace, 3 religious leaders support 30-day liberty

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

THREE RELIGIOUS LEADERS—CEBU ARCHbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo—are willing to serve as guarantors for deposed President Joseph Estrada in the event that he applies for temporary freedom.

This was disclosed yesterday by Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, who also said Malacañang would not oppose the arrangement. Defensor is leading reconciliation talks between the administration and Ms Arroyo's ousted predecessor.

Defensor said the matter had been discussed with religious leaders and their representatives for some time now. He said the most recent of the discussions occurred in the last two weeks, but this time with INC representatives and with Vidal.

"The three leaders are willing to guarantee [that] Estrada is not a flight risk and that he would be placed under their recognizance," he said in a phone interview.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo was aware of the position taken by the religious leaders regarding Estrada, Defensor said: "I think the President is aware since the three

ERAP A7

DVD pirates paid off by film fest producers

By Bayani San Diego Jr. and Nini Valera

"LIKE PAYING RANSOM FOR OUR own movies," decried a producer.

And the director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines wants to know: "Why is the Optical Media Board consorting with pirates?"

Leo Martinez asked the question in connection with the arrangement between the OMB and the people behind the thriving piracy industry, wherein a virtual ransom was paid for the continuous the 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Martinez told the Inquirer that prior to the MMFF in December

DVD PIRATES A4

RP taken off US priority piracy watch list

THE UNITED STATES HAS REmoved the Philippines from its "priority watch list" of countries that do not properly enforce intellectual property rights (IPR).

The Office of the US Trade Representative yesterday issued a statement saying that it had upgraded the Philippines from the "priority watch list" to the ordinary watch list.

Its "out-of-cycle review" found that in 2005, "the Philippines bolstered implementation of its special legislation" against pirated audio and video discs.

President Macapagal-Arroyo crowed about the removal of the Philippines from the US government's priority watch list of countries with a notorious record of bootlegging American movies, music, software, books and apparel.

"I am happy that we are removed from the priority watch list of IPR violators. This is recognition of our relentless efforts to stamp out piracy in the country," the President said at a forum on public television last night. "I have always said piracy is immoral because it is stealing."

Ms Arroyo said the government's success in reining after bootleggers augured well not only for American copyright and trademark holders but also for Philippine artists.

"This is a big industry, a lot of our creative artists will lose jobs if we allow them to continue to violate intellectual property rights," she said.

The country has been on the priority watch list from 2001, which meant that the country was just a step away from being slapped with trade sanctions by the US government.

The President also said the removal from the priority watch list should spur foreign investors to put money in high-value software development.

RP TAKEN A9

4 Pinoys invent personal weather bureau

By Blanche S. Rivera

IMAGINE HAVING A PERSONAL weather bureau.

Make one missed call to a mobile phone number and it sends back real time data on temperature, wind speed and direction, and rainfall volume of an area.

By April, Filipinos need imagine no more.

Geologist Dr. Carlo Primo David and three computer engineering students from Don Bosco College are putting the final touches on what could be the cheapest system useful to the country's disaster preparedness program.

The group, which is working with the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences (UP NIGS), will soon introduce the Automated Monitoring System (AMS), a data collection device capable of delivering up-to-the-minute information directly to your cell phone.

The system would be a breakthrough for Philippine environmental field monitoring. It offers a cost-effective alternative to the weather monitoring stations currently used by Pagasa.

PINOYS A21



Only English to be spoken in Munti schools

By Jocelyn R. Uy

Metro

"EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. I'M here to collect your trash."

"Students, please clean up your mess."

Don't be surprised if janitors in Muntinlupa City's public schools will be blurting out these lines on campus. The city council is drafting a law that requires

ONLY A8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

'Spice Boys' take up cudgels for Joe de V

Senators smell Cha-cha in IRA

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA AND HIS ALLIES' DETERMINATION to go it alone on Charter change continues to generate heat in the halls of Congress.

Good intentions

Imagining things

Making a crisis

BREACH OF ETHICS

Tech firm hits back at SolGen

By Armand N. Nocum



Comelec documents

Software security

'Hello Garci' generals promoted

Puno says he's still a congressman



SM-Sta Rosa opens today

PCGG 'gone to the dogs'

Garci not yet off the hook

By Michael Lim Ubac

DAR: We're still indispensable to land reform

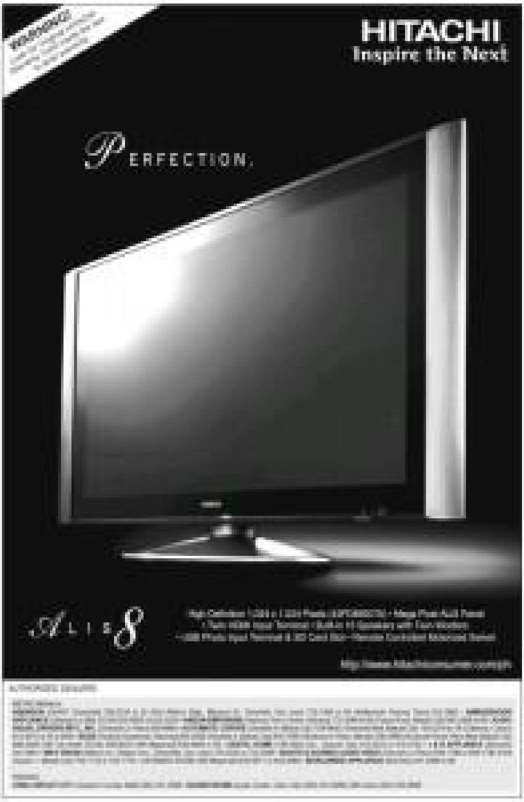
Fingerprint machine does wonders

UNEXPLAINED WEALTH

BIR exec in hot water

Corrections







Build his strength with Nutren Fibre.
Nutren
Fibre
FEEL STRONGER EVERYDAY
Nestlé
Nutrition
Enhancing the quality of life



BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
You may win the car that wins both your hearts.
The Audi A4 Avant.
To join, simply charge a minimum purchase of ₱1,000
to your PETRON-BPI MasterCard.
Make IT Happen

stayin_alive@onehundredandfive

2006 San Beda College Grand Alumni Homecoming

Saturday, February 18, 2006, San Beda College, Mendiola, Manila
4:00 PM-Holy Mass 5:00 PM- Awarding of Medals to Jubilarians GS/HS/CAS/LAW'56, GS/HS,CAS/LAW'81 and HS '46, 6:00 PM Dinner Program

Featuring:

Tanya Garcia, Dulce, Jenine Desiderio, Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc, Duncan Ramos of South Border
Montserrat Singers

with

Natural High, Groovewerk, Moranos, Strum Jam, Trendsetters

and

Ms. Aubrey Miles

A SALUTE TO THE 2006 EXEMPLARS OF BEDAN EXCELLENCE

Red and White Ball - Friday, February 17, 2006, 6:00PM - NBC Tent

SAN BEDA HALL OF FAME

Jose G. Araullo *(Accountancy)*
Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. *posthumous (Government Service)*
Aurelio O. Periquet, Jr. *posthumous (Business)*
Raul S. Roco *posthumous (Government Service)*

RAMON V. MITRA AWARD FOR LEGISLATION

Sen. Pia S. Cayetano *(SBC Alabang)*

MOST OUTSTANDING OVERSEAS BEDAN

Joseph V. Tieng

BEDAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Charlito Mendoza - *3rd place 2005 Bar Exam*
Efren Dizon - *5th place 2005 Bar Exam*
Melissa Tan - *7th place Bar Exam*
Pearl Martinez - *6th place Nursing Board Exam*
David Jericho Naval-*2nd place, 2005 Oct. CPA Board Exam (SBC Alabang)*

MOST DISTINGUISHED BEDANS

Ramon L. Arcadio *(Medicine)*
Jose D. Baltazar *(Education)*
Jose Maria P. Balmaceda *(Science & Technology)*
Sisto S. Brillantes, Jr. *(Law)*
Benjamin P. Castillo *(Banking)*
Avelino V. Cruz *(Law)*
Rachy Z. Cuna III *(Arts)*
Joselito G. Diga *(Accountancy)*
Nanki B. Hiranand **(Business)**
Victor D. Isungga, Jr *a.k.a. Vic Morales (Broadcast Media)*
Ricarchito B. Manera (Medicine)
Honor S. Mendoza *(Sports School Service)*
Eduardo L. Roberto *(Marketing)*
Benjamin Gerardo T. Tolosa, Jr. *(Education)*
Arthur P. Tugade *(Business & Industry)*

Premier Wines & Spirits

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Erap release for 30 days backed by Palace

Reconciliation

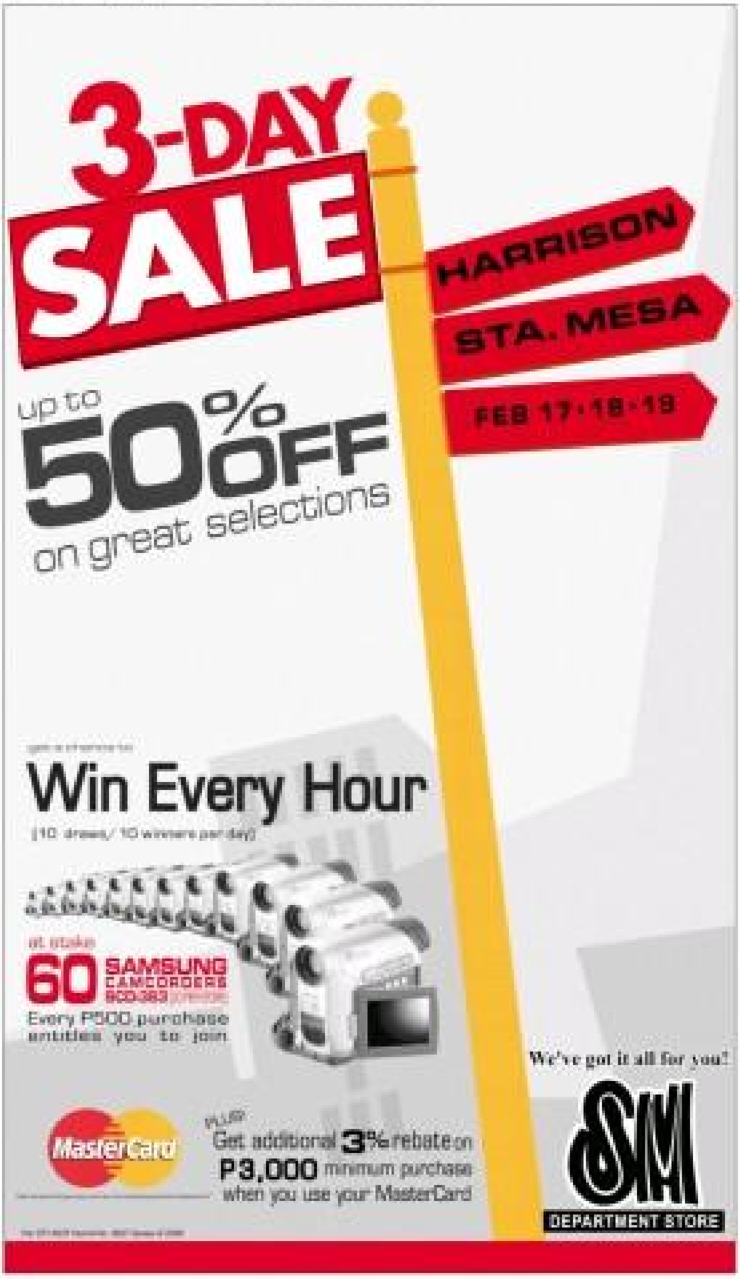
Position of strength

Doubts



RP health ...

Remedial legislation



Lame Edsa rites irk FVR

Admired 'round the world'

Lakas scored



'Tornika' in Malacañang



Only English to be ...

Janitors also

Problem

Job chances

Training



DVD pirates paid off by Metro film fest producers

Word war

OMB asks for funding

Doing its job

Short-term solution

Victims and buyers

Down 5%

Video pirates scalp 'Pacman'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Pacquiao CD top seller



RP taken off US ...

Raids



The WORLD

EU backs Denmark in cartoons row

STRASBOURG, FRANCE—THE EUROPEAN UNION backed Denmark on Wednesday in the row over cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, but leaders of its legislature differed over the limits of free speech.

Cheney breaks silence on Texas shooting



Study: Calcium, vit. D give little help to bones



ABU GHRAIB REVISITED

A TV frame grab shows an image made available by Australia's Special Broadcasting Service Feb. 15 of what the broadcaster says is a detainee being abused in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison taken in 2003. SBS said they were taken at the same time as the photographs of US soldiers showing Iraqi prisoners inside Abu Ghraib.

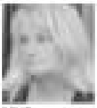
Japan opens latest airport

WorldBriefs

Saddam warned terrorists would hit US

Europe urges calm as bird flu spreads

Court sides with Jackson's ex-wife



ROWE

Deal reached to declare Preval winner

SPLITS by CA



Alpha
Your first split.

The Carrier Alpha Split is your easy access
to split air-conditioning. The Alpha Split is easy to own
because it is certainly within your reach.
It is packed with practical, efficient, energy-saving features
that bear the assurance of Carrier reliability.

reliabil

It's all about cooling your homes and businesses.

When choosing your split air-conditioning system, put your money where your trust is.
Whether it is for the bigger rooms of your house or your place of business.
Because what you choose today will define your cooling comfort tomorrow.
And the guaranteed return on your investment.

durability

It's all about knowing Carrier expertise is within reach.

For over 100 years now, Carrier has defined what air conditioning is all about. This expertise has allowed Carrier
to introduce unique and pioneering breakthroughs only a leader can. Value-added features such as
easy acquisition, free installation, after sales service, warranties and genuine parts supply.
All these to assure you of high quality reliable units. Inquire from your dealer about these features.

It's all about energy efficiency

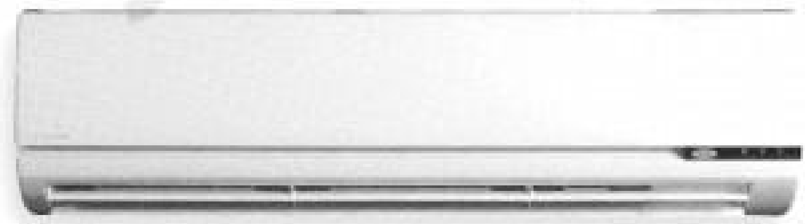
Power consumption is everyone's concern. Whether at home or in your place of business.
Which is why the Alpha Split has a unique feature called Economic Running. This allows the Alpha Split
to automatically adjust the temperature to an optimum level. Also, a 24-hour ON and OFF timer
will allow the unit to go on and off at predetermined intervals. Add to this a high
Energy Efficient Ratio (EER) and you are assured of maximum savings in electricity.

your

w

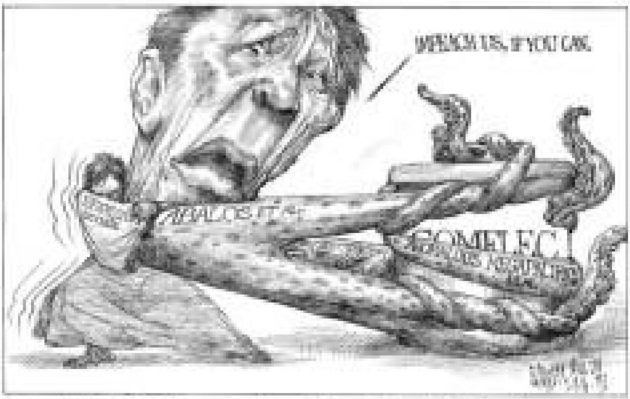
It's all about advanced technology working for you.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This same adage applies to
the Carrier Split. It is equipped with a Self-Diagnostic Device which detects potential
system malfunctions and protects your unit from any damage.



INQUIRER

OPINION



Factual vacuum

EDITORIAL

'La Niña' may be a blessing in disguise

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

The intolerant versus the irreligious

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Media in the hot seat

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

[illegible]

Drugs and the law

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

[illegible]

Careless disregard

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

[illegible]

Stories artifacts tell

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

[illegible]

A poison that kills the poor

LETTERS

Sickening lack of discipline

Weak moral values caused tragedy



A growing restiveness

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Across the NATION

Sulu village folk recover US unmanned spy aircraft

JOLO, SULU—RESIDENTS OF A VILLAGE IN Indanan recovered an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which a Sulu official said could be a US spy plane.

Villagers await hatching of sea turtle eggs

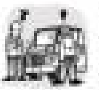
5,500 GIs to join war games


Robinsons Supermarket
WOW!
Low-low prices
February 17- March 2, 2006
SCHICK EXTRA II
Plus Ocean
P21.50
Plus Pink
P29.25
BABYFLO
Powder
P14.75
HOT BUY
P25.
P170.
P10.
P18.
P49.
P101.
P21.
P36.
P235.
P108.
P245.
P17.
P26.
P60.
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P31.
P24.
P7.
P89.
P57.
P30.
P159.
P28.
P255.
Colgate
Surf
PediaSure
APPLE TAG SPECIALS
Get DISCOUNTS and
WIN instant prizes DAILY
with every P400 single receipt purchase of
Whole Health items with Apple Tags
FREE

Girl's death strikes fear in town

ROUNDUP

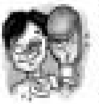
Board buys 14 vans



Truck falls; 3 dead

Girl stabbed by molester

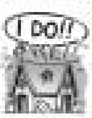
Town promotes boxing



Port upgraded

Capiz board member dies

Puerto mass wedding



'Oplan Heckle' uncovered, say two generals

PNP urged to throw book at Pasig mayor

4 Pinoys invent personal weather bureau

From page A1

[illegible]

No operator required

[illegible]

Lafayette mine spill

[illegible]

First AMS

[illegible]

Only P20,000

[illegible]



[illegible]

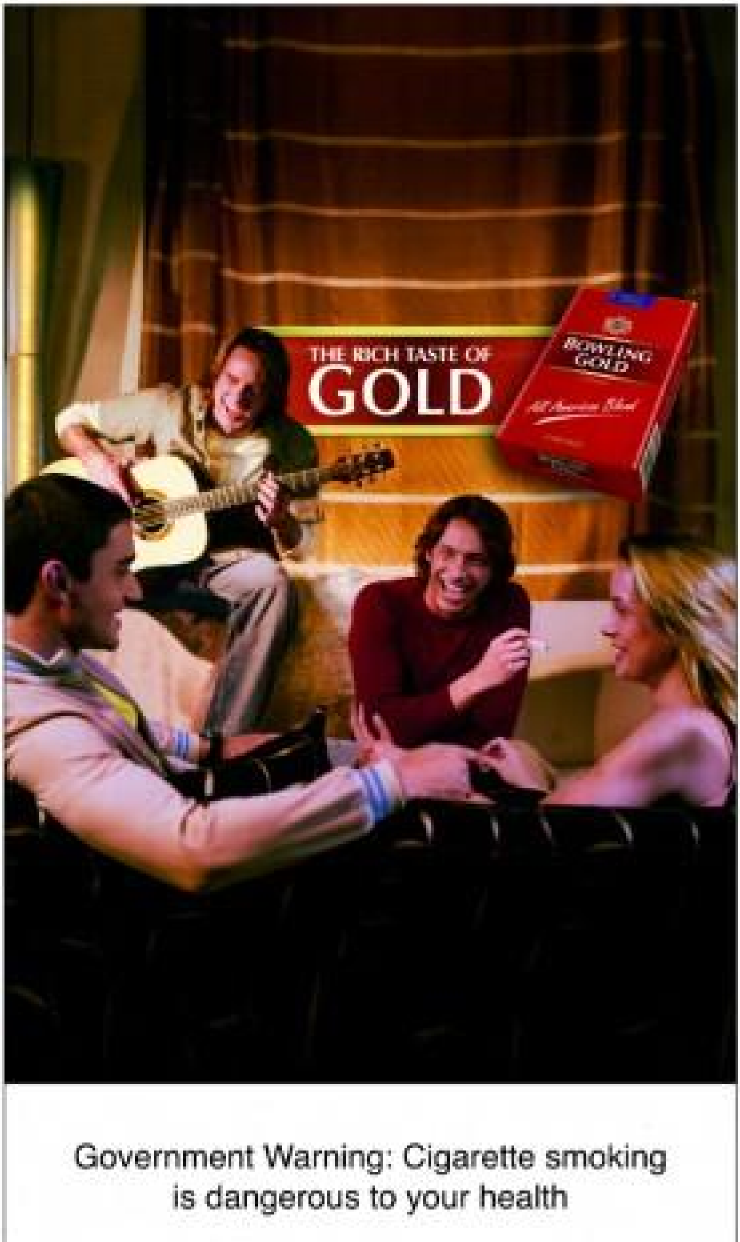




NBI raid nets biggest ketamine drug haul







'Car hijacking suspect not one of us'–MMDA

Family turns over minor to city jail

SUERTRES 5 9 1
SIX DIGIT 6 2 3 7 1 2
EZ2 26 6
METRO
Editor: Eliza G. Dipasupil
SUPERLOTTO 6/49
13 33 39 41 44 49
P13,192,488.80

Dumps can stay open for now, says BF

By Tarra V. Quismundo and DJ Yap

THE SMATERA AND PAYATAS controlled dumps can continue to operate, despite the Feb. 16 deadline set for the closure of all controlled waste dumps, as required by Republic Act (RA) 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Quezon City government said the dumps will remain open until preparations for their safe and "environmentally sound" shutdown are completed.

"The controlled dumps were allowed by the National Solid Waste Management Board (NSWMB) to be used until the slopes of the garbage pile have been prepared in such a way that there is no danger of ponding of storm water, which is hazardous," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday.

Pending rehabilitation of the accumulated garbage at the top of the garbage pile.

"For a dump to be closed, the requirement is it should be environmentally sound. If they haven't filled the dump up to a certain capacity that would allow a stable terrain, it means the dumping of more garbage ... [illegible] it would create an environmental hazard," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said.

As explained during Wednesday's NSWMB meeting of the MMDA for the implementation of RA 9003, the accumulated trash in the dumps should be at the required height and slope to ensure that the trash would be leveled off evenly prior to closure, to avoid a trash slide.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. also confirmed that [illegible] to remain open in Payatas although he stressed that the controlled dump will only process the city's garbage. He added that the city government had already submitted a "closure plan" to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) detailing its plan to rehabilitate the dump.

But while the Payatas dump remained open, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco ordered the temporary closure of the Tanza controlled dump and the diversion of the town's garbage to the Montalban trash facility. Tiangco said he had written the DENR to ask for a clarification regarding the department's announcement that local government units operating a controlled dump would be allowed to complete their closure plan with the approval of the NSWMB. *With Nancy C. Carvajal*



GIFT OF LOVE
Nini Quezon Avanceña (right), daughter of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, spearheads the planting of "Hacienda Doña Aurora," named after her mother, former First Lady Doña Aurora, at the grounds of the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, with environmental advocates from the Makati Garden Club and Wiener Foundation.

MetroBriefs

Taxi driver shot dead

A TAXI driver was shot dead by two men in Muntinlupa City Wednesday night. Mark Ceru Jr., 32, was talking to a street vendor on Bayan-Bayanan Avenue, Barangay Marikina Heights when two men approached him and shot him in the head. The suspects then fled on board a dark colored Honda Civic. Witnesses described one of the killers as about 5'6" tall, between 30-35 years old, wearing a shirt and a pair of denim pants. A relative told investigators Ceru had been receiving death threats before he was killed, possibly because of the P5,000 he had borrowed from a lender. He filed the drivers' [illegible] investigators they knew that somebody had threatened to kill the victim. Police recovered two spent shells from a .45-caliber gun at the crime scene. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

AIM alumni homecoming

THE MBM CLASS '86 will host the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) alumni homecoming this year. Opening the celebration is the AIM Triple A Cup Basketball Tournament on Feb. 25 at the Manila Polo Club followed by the AIM Golf Cup 2006 Golf Tournament on March 4 at the Ayala Greenfield Golf & Leisure Club. The highlight will be the AIM Alumni Homecoming 2006 Night on March 3, 7:30 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Registration is P3,200 p.p. to cover [illegible] the overall chair of the homecoming. For more information, please call the AIM Alumni Center at 892-7410 or 817-4838.



KID CENTER MARKS 4TH YEAR
Mandaluyong City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi (second from left) with Pastor Paul Chase during the 4th anniversary of the Social Development Center for street children.

Cop in hot water

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A QUEZON CITY policeman and three other men were arrested Wednesday for allegedly extorting money from Taguig City residents.

Authorities identified the suspects as PO2 Alberto Gomez of the Quezon City Police District, Paulino Gulane, Bonifacio Pagdanan and Rodolfo Pamoso Jr., all from Caloocan City.

They were arrested after Zenaida Libres, of Purok 12, Zone 6 in Signal Village, Taguig City, called up the police to complain.

According to Libres, the four were trying to force her to buy thousands of pesos worth of tickets from their group, the Green Columbarium Network.

Upon investigation, the police found out that the four men had been going around the city, posing as members of the local government's engineering office and looking for homes or establishments that were under construction.

If the owners had failed to secure the necessary building permits from City Hall, the four would force them to buy tickets worth P5,000 to P8,000 in exchange for "getting them off the hook," the police said.

According to Ana Santos, public information officer, two more complainants have surfaced and claimed that they were also victimized by the four men.

Truckers plan new rally

By Nancy C. Carvajal

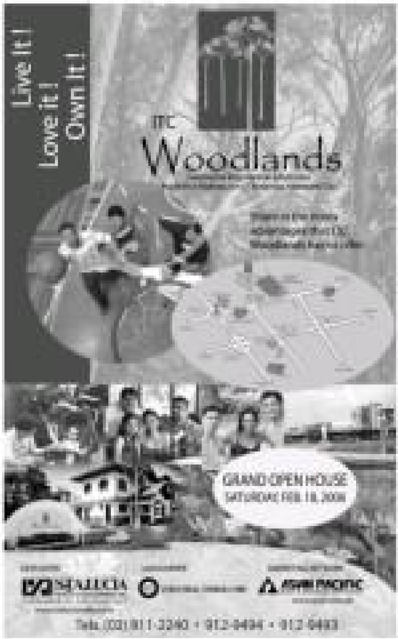
A GROUP OF TRUCK DRIVERS will reportedly stage another rally to protest the load limit being imposed on trucks plying the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

Newly appointed Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil announced this yesterday following a meeting with officials of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), which operates the expressway.

Last week, traffic was jammed for hours in roads leading to the NLEx as hundreds of members of the Alliance of Concerned Truck Owners and Organizations (Acto), on board their trucks, tried to stage a rally near the toll gate. They were stopped, however, by the police.

The MNTC imposes a load limit of 11.5 tons per axle and charges violators between P1,300 and P3,700 for each violation. The truckers have asked for a moratorium.

"We have received reports about the truckers' plan, but we are ready to prevent it," Bataoil said.





Nagbalik Na! At May Dagdag Pang Saya!
P10
for SMART to SMART calls
up to 3 minutes
or up to 5 minutes for only P15!
To make a SMART to SMART FLATRATE call.
Tuloy pa rin ang panalo sa tipid! Ngayon, may chance ka pang manalo kada-tawag!
Text
and send to
299
Kaya, tawag lang ng tawag. Because the more calls you make, the more entries you get, the more chances of winning!
P100,000 pesos
• P100,000 cash Weekly (3 winners)
• P1,000 worth of Airtime Daily (250 winners)
• Toyota Fortuner sa Grand Draw (1 winner)
SMART
Simply Amazing!

SPORTS





Wizards do the trick

Magnolia takes Heroes Cup with stunning late blast

THE MAGNOLIA WIZARDS TURNED LETHAL IN THE CLOSING minutes to complete their phenomenal comeback.

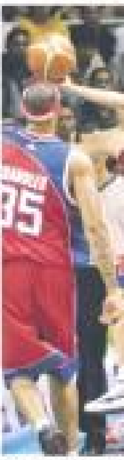
Giants gun for 3rd win in a row A26

Clark Field's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING

PIVOTAL GAME 5

Awakened Giants have momentum



Wizards do the trick, snatch PBL Hero



Canlubang all out to halt Luisita's amazing streak



DHL nat'l jungolf series tomorrow

...pes Cup

Miñoza opens with 69

World No. 3 heads HK challenge in RP Open



CHEN

SPORTS

James' triple-double negates Pierce's 50



Wang hands China a gold

San Beda Law golfest

Pagadian nips Bacchus/Harbour

RAV 4 leads

4-cocker on

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

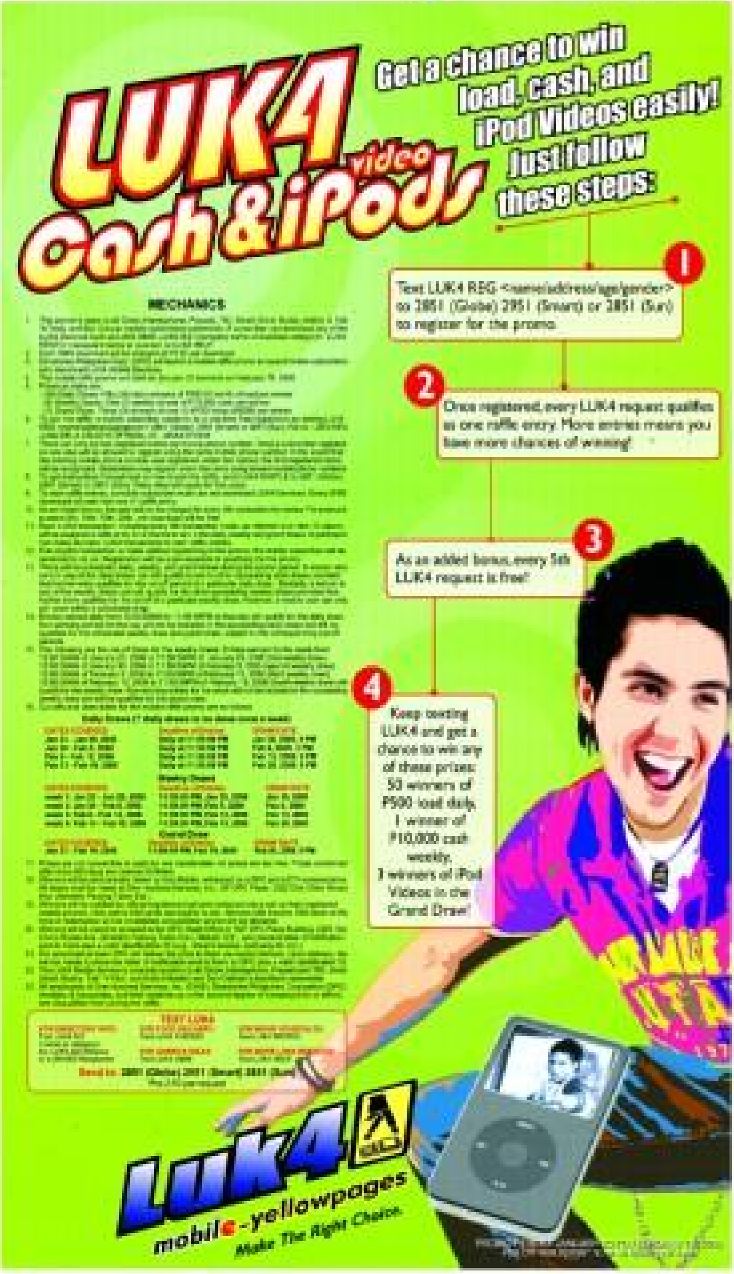


Pinay joins Oscar bets' lunch

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales



Jeremy Marquez says dad Joey is smart and 'deep'

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



LIKE ANY SON OF A FAMOUS PERSONALITY, Jeremy Marquez wants to break out of the shadow of his dad, Joey Marquez. [illegible]

[illegible]

Trouble in paradise

[illegible]

"Starstruck"

[illegible]

Head over heels

[illegible]

Fun show

[illegible]

Jobs TV

[illegible]

Post-Y show

[illegible]

Pinay joins Oscar bets' lunch

Coming in, what was your first impression?

What were the highlights for you?

Other memorable moments?

What was the group pictorial like?

Did it feel like really belonging to a class?

What was on the menu?

Coming away from the event, how did you feel?



"GOAL!": for people who like their drama with extra cheese.

Sport & soap

Review

Ang Lee recovers with 'Brokeback'

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre



ROUNDUP

P60-M franchise

ABC 5 is set to produce "Pinoy Idol" and begin broadcast by June or July.

Sources said the network paid "American Idol" producers about P60 million as "franchise fee."

According to the source, network owner Tonyboy Cojuangco is prepared to spend up to P100 million for one season.

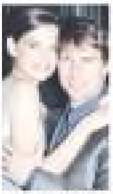
"Maybe that's where some of the fresh funds will be used," sources say.

The former owner of PLDT infused about P500 million into ABC 5 in the fourth quarter of last year. [illegible]

Not true

LOS ANGELES—Not true.

That's what Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes said Tuesday about a Valentine's Day report on the Life & Style magazine Website, which claimed Cruise and Holmes had split up and called off their wedding.



HOLMES and Cruise — AP

"The story is 100 percent false," Arnold Robinson, a publicist for the couple, said in a statement. "Mr. Cruise and Ms. Holmes are still engaged and are moving forward with their wedding plans, as well as planning for the arrival of their child."

Holmes, 27, and Cruise, 43, have been engaged since June. AP

Uncut 'Mountain'

SINGAPORE cinemas have begun screening the movie "Brokeback Mountain" on Thursday in what critics say is a sign of loosening censorship. The country bans gay sex.

"This shows they are willing to give more respect to homosexuality to be considered as mature in popular culture," said Russell Heng, founder of People Like Us, a gay support group.

But theater admission will be restricted to audiences over age 21, and promotional material will carry a consumer advisory saying, "Mature theme, sexual scenes." AP

For gay cowboys

NASHVILLE—Legendary country singer Willie Nelson sang "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" and "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" more than 25 years ago.



NELSON — AP

But he released a different sort of cowboy anthem this Valentine's Day.

"Cowboys Are Frequently Secretly (Fond of Each Other)" may be the first gay cowboy song by a major recording artist.

Available exclusively through iTunes beginning Tuesday, the song features choppy Tex-Mex style guitar runs and Nelson's deadpan delivery of lines like, "What did you think all them saddles and boots was about?" AP

Ours project

HONG KONG—Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin will shoot a movie in China about a joint Sino-US operation to arrest a Japanese war criminal after World War II and a subsequent treasure hunt, a news report said.

The movie, titled "The Forbidden City," is a US$25 million production directed by Russian Andrei Konchalovsky and adapted from the novel "The Last Mandarin" by Stephen Becker. AP

Post-V show

THE PODIUM presents Josephine Gomez in a popular French, German, Spanish, English and Italian love songs in "Nuance of Love," tonight at 7.

Gomez deviates from her usual program of classical songs and opera arias with the addition of songs popularized by [illegible], Sarah Brightman and Edith Piaf.

She will be assisted at the piano by musical director [illegible], on the keyboard by [illegible] and on sax and flute by [illegible]. [illegible] will perform solo numbers on the floor.

Admission is free.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Business

Editor Raul D. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Martinez

Q1 trade prospects upbeat

Survey reveals rosiest sentiment in three years

Currencies

Peso-dollar rate

PSE composite index





Stocks close 0.11% higher

January balance of payments surplus hits $1.9B

Global bonds issuance provided the boost

GMA 7 wants Ch. 27 back

LandBank '05 profit rises by 34% to ₱3B

Equitable PCI posts 33% growth in net income

Q1 trade ...

Engulfed in subterfuge

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin

Heard through the grapevine

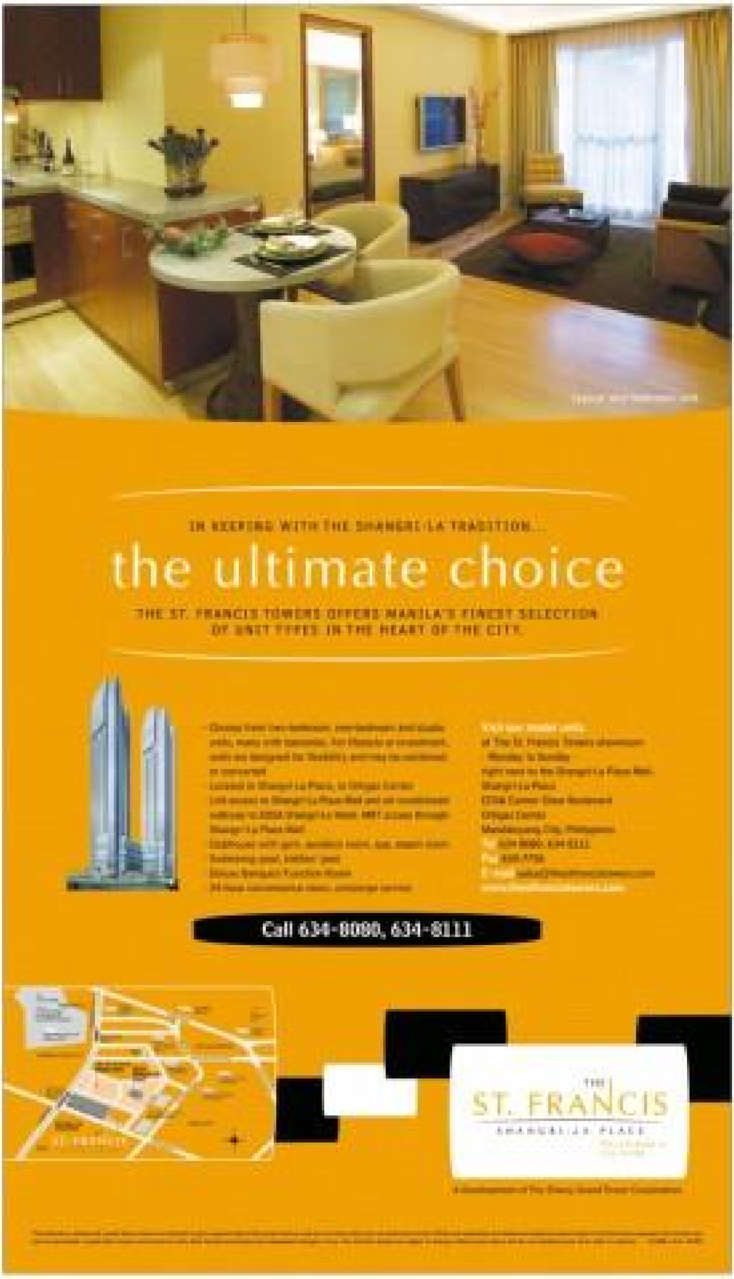
OUCH (Office of the Unretired Chair)

Merry-go-round

Naia 3 opening still uncertain, says MIAA chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

Investment Funds of	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	Feb. 13, 2006	Feb. 6, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balanced Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equity Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]



Business

Useless costs kill jobs

COMMENTARY

Environment guarantee fund

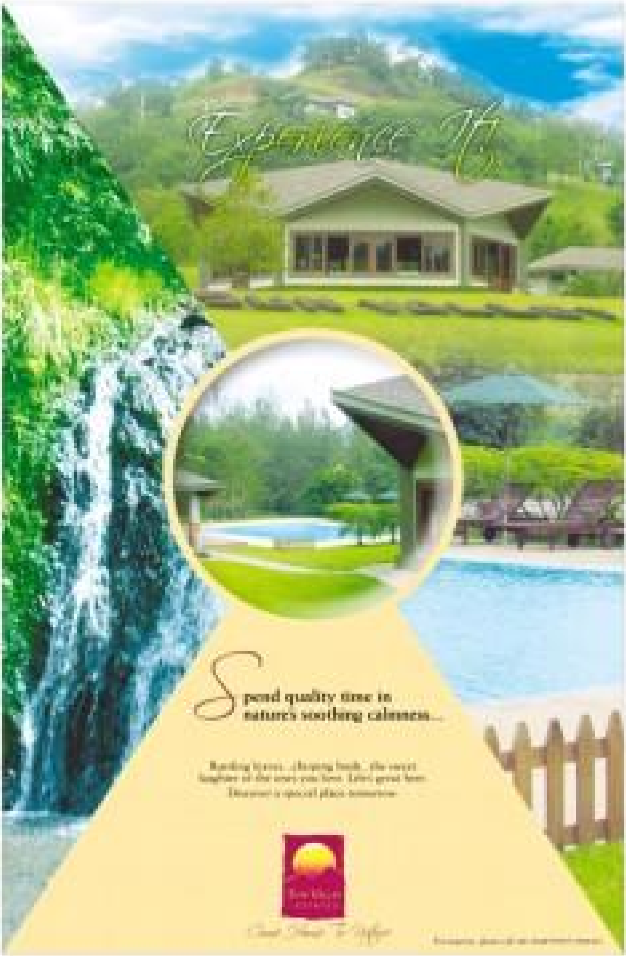
Areas of concern

Impact to farmers

Action taken

BIR tax effort rose in 2005 to 9.9% of GDP

Agency still fell short of target of 10.3%



PRE-NEED FIRM COURT UPDATE

Makati judge orders suspension of TPG payments

Petition

Claims

Stocks ...

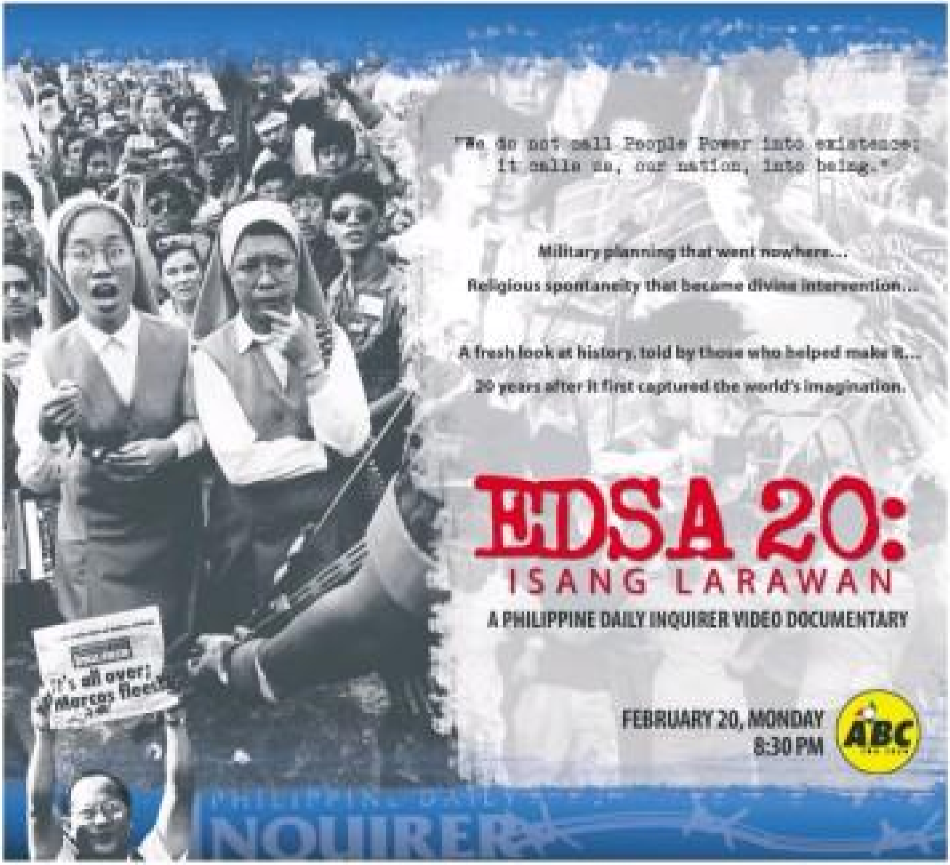




Outsource industry seen growing

Experts expect 2006 revenues to exceed the $2-billion level

Basic sells unit to Forum firm



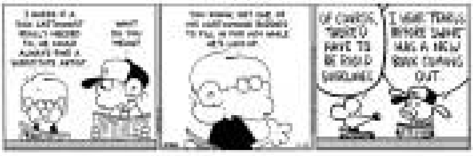
LIFESTYLE

Scent of a woman

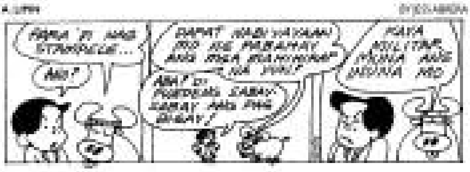




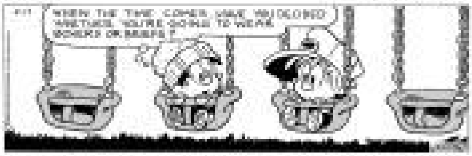
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



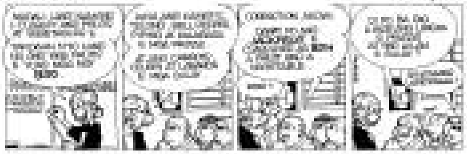
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



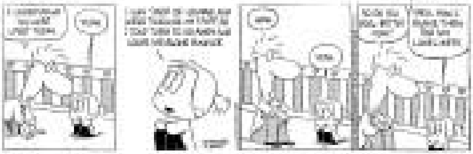
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG



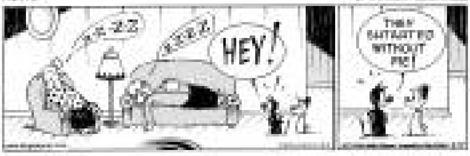
PUGAD BABOY



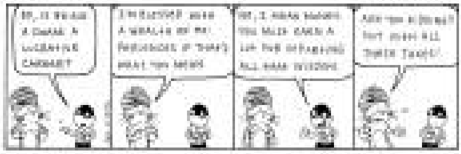
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBBY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

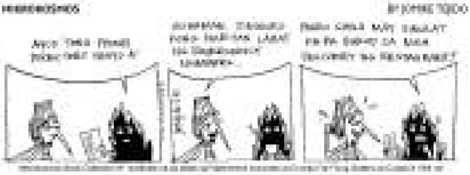


DIVINE COMEDY

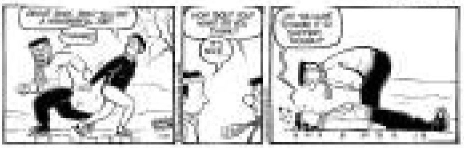


HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

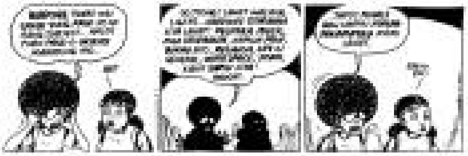
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



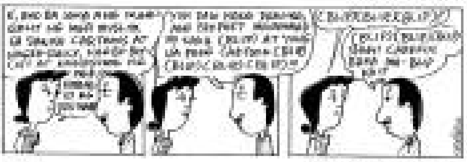
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

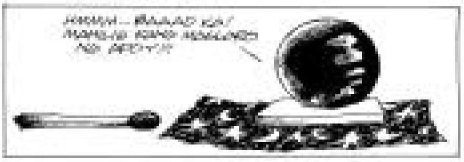


KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVENOTES



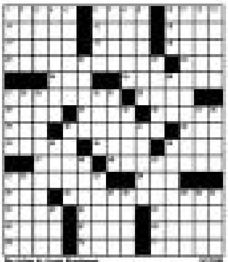


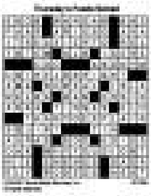
Horoscope

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

Daily Crossword

ACROSS





DOWN

LIVE XTREME

WITH Rexona FOR MEN



Have you ever had that compulsion to jump onto the bus rather than wait with all the rest in the bus stop? Or did you ever want to jump in to the elevator shaft instead of riding the car down for a quicker get-away from the office? Or has it ever crossed your mind to beat traffic by hang-gliding your way from the penthouse of your building? All of us have an action hero in us. It's part of being a man.

The **new Rexona for Men** – made for extreme underarm protection – puts men's mettle for the extreme with **Live Xtreme Zone** - an over-the-top set-up designed to quench men's thirst for urban adventure. On February 23 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Rexona will whip up five wickedly insane, heart-stopping, adrenalin-pumping, and extreme activities to challenge men with tough guts, wills of steel and intense attitudes.

And the excitement continues because you can win any of these Xtreme Prizes thru SMS:

* A Monster Truck
* (3) Wild Bikes
* (5) Chopper Rides
  + Php 50, 000 cash each

To join, simply purchase any Rexona for Men product and look for the promo sticker on the product pack for a raffle entry. Text REXONA FOR MEN <sticker code> (Example: REXONA FOR MEN HJKM5728) and send to 2955 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Talk n' Text/ Addict/Infinity/Sun Cellular. Promo runs until April 8, 2006.

With Rexona for Men, men all over are really living life TO THE EXTREME!

Rexona FOR MEN LIVE XTREME

WIN XTREME PRIZES





5 CHOPPER RIDES

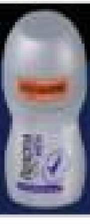
3 WILD BIKES



1 MONSTER TRUCK

PLUS FREE PASSES TO THE REXONA FOR MEN XTREME ZONE

TEXT REXONA FOR MEN TO 2955



SM CITY STA. ROSA

welcomes Laguna families to fun city shopping!

Located along the National Road in Barrio Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, SM Supermalls' 23rd branch is easily accessible to shoppers from San Pedro, Biñan, Cabuyao, Calamba, Canlubang, Carmona and Los Baños.

SM City Sta. Rosa features an exciting mix of popular stores and shops that includes SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center plus many more retailers offering a broad range of products and services.

Experience SM city shopping in *Sta. Rosa*



SM City

STA. ROSA

NOW OPEN

10:00am - 9:00pm



National Road, Barrio Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

What's in Store!

Amusement

Kids Village • Tom's World • Quantum Amusement • Wonderland for Kids

Apparel / Fashion Accessories

Apple & Eve • Amer • Artwork • B Club • Bench • Collia • Collezione • Dickies USA • Enfant • EKR Boutique • Hanglain • Herbench • Hot Kiwes & Co. • Le Jean De Marithe & Francois Girbaud • Hamm • Mendoza • Mint • Naf Naf • Occasions • Osh Kosh B' Gosh • Oxygen • Penshoppe • Raffi • Rusty Lopez • Sebella • Scoop • Shapes • Surplus Shop • Tomato • Window Box • Y Quiapo

Books / School & Office Supplies

Booksale • National Bookstore • Philippine Christian Bookstore • Precious Page

Car / Auto Accessories

Blade • Trans Cycle Mart

Computers / I.T. Gadgets

Asiatic Computers • DGD Trading • Electroworld • Games and Gadgets • Globe Telecom • Memo Express • Mirage • Octagon Computer • PT&T • Silicon Valley • Smart • The Computer Authority (TCA) • Trainline Trading • Wellcom

Hardware / Appliance / Electronics

Ace Hardware • Astroplus • Odyssey • SM Appliance Center • Video City

Health & Beauty

David's For Rover • Dermstrata • Freshface • Going Straight • GQ Barbershop • Let's Face It Salon • Lenderm Facial Center & Facial Spa • Pientsa Dental Care Co. • Perfect Teeth Dental Center • Tabbo Barbershop • The Body Shop • Teeth in Style Dental Clinic • Watsons

Novelty Shops / Sporting Goods

Bike Plus • Chris Sports • Sports House • Tribu

Restos / Fastfood

Barrio Fiesta • Chowking • Congo Grille • Fat Choi • Go Nuts Donuts • Greenwich Pizza Pasta • Jollibee • KFC • Kitaro • Mc Donald's • Michelle's Cakes & Pastries • Max's Restaurant • Pizza Hut • Rai Rai Ken • Tokyo Tokyo

Service Establishments / Banks

China Bank • A-1 Driving • Executive Optical • Great Image • Ideal Vision • Island Photo Center • Kamera World • LBC • Photoline • Picture City • SLS Optical Express • Southern Sky Travel & Tours • Ticket N' Rest • Vision Express • YKL Fuji

Specialty Stores

Akssesorz Fashion Hauz • Beat Cuddler • L Time Studio • No Cuffers • Dealtam • Pink Box • Silverworks • Times • Unwind • UGO

Carts / Kiosks / Counters

Aficionado Germany • Branded King Pizza • Country Style • Brownie's Unlimited • Candy Corner • Candy Mix • Candy & Stuff • Carnival Ovens • Chicharon Especial • Diako Resort & Butterfly Farm • Doc's Candle • Eloi Chinese Drugstore • Fly Wear • Frutas • Fruits & Waffles • Foodbank • Graphic Works • Gelati's Ice Cream • Illusion • Inkrite • Jelly N' Juice • Jojo's Kiddie Cart • Juice Avenue • Kiddie Cart • Key Express • Kingcorn • Lighter's Galore • Lynx Design • Mr. Softy • Nacho King • NY Fries & Dips • Nutmill • Scents & Blends • Simply Nice • Sy Jewels Touch Art • Scratch • Potent • Takal Takal • Unique Idea • Waffle Time • Whoppy Ice Cream • Zen Zest

LifeStyle



A thing of crystal is a joy forever

Swarovski comes up with a coffee-table book to memorialize advances and achievements in fashion crystal technology



HEMISPHERE BAG, from Crystal Palace collection, ... White satin and crystal pendants

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE INFINITE possibilities concerning the use of beauty on crystals are explored by industry leader Swarovski in a 348-page coffee-table book, "Daniel Swarovski—A World of Beauty."

Launched recently in Hong Kong and published by Thames & Hudson of London, the book is the Austrian family-owned corporation's [illegible] foray into publishing. It has been a little over a decade since it last launched a book [illegible].

The picture-heavy book (550 images), which was edited by Vivienne Becker and [illegible], retails for approximately $75. It comes

[illegible]



THE NATIONAL Milo Marathon marks its 30th year of promoting fun, healthy lifestyles.

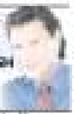




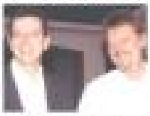


The race is on

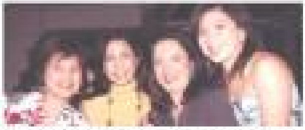
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



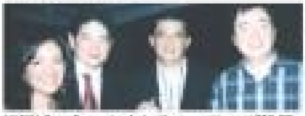


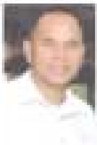


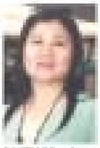














Yearbook launched

Assumption musical









A thing of crystal is a joy forever



Focal order





Ben Affleck's bling



Shopping malls turn love malls

Goings On



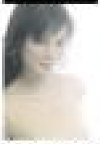
COOL BASIC WEAR



Spring fling

The rewards of travel far outweigh the difficulty of packing

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I WOULD TRAVEL around the world 365 days of the year if I could. [illegible]



[illegible]



To bare or not to ba





AH, THE GREAT SWIMSUIT debate: To go maillot or bare the midriff with a two-piece bikini?



Many maillot styles, with cutaway sides or cut down to there, are just as coquettish and sexy as the next bikini





FLORAL-PRINT maillot by Rosel Ilyn, P4,200; ... by Ted Baker, P4,700; earrings by ... P375; ... by Emporio Armani at L'Time Studio, P12,9...



... by Ted Baker, P4,200; earrings by ...

The great getaway is . . .

Compiled by Apples Aberin Sadhwani

"A disappearing act, a shot in the arm, a break from routine. Nobody knows where you are and sometimes, even you don't know where you're going.
—Rico Blanco, musician

Spending a peaceful and worry-free vacation close to nature with my loved one.
—Gary Dulacas, top model

Anywhere with no cell phones, no deadlines, no stress—just my boyfriend and me. And since we're shooters, with a couple of guns and at least a thousand rounds to let off some steam.
—Cristina Pecson, newscaster

Driving around Tuscany and Umbria where you'll find amazing countryside, the most beautiful little towns and fabulous food.
—Mia Borromeo, fashion consultant and Metro Society entertaining editor

Our place in Bayorbor, Mataas na Kahoy. Abroad, it would be Greece and London."
—Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach, actress



BLACK coat with fur ... by Zara; Easy Share V-series digital camera by Kodak; faux diamond ring and earrings by Silver Works.

Spring fling

From page E1

to create a variety of looks.

Since you are presumably heading to a cold-weather locale, make sure you have one good coat you can wear with any of your outfits. Also, keep in mind that layering garments is key when dressing for the cold. That way, you can easily peel off layers as you go indoors and out or as the temperature changes.

Fabric also plays an important role when dressing for the cold. Smooth gabardines, nubby wools, knits and other such substantial garments are needed in order to keep warm. And to keep things fashionably interesting, pack items with contrasting textures. You can combine smooth silk with wiry wools, for instance. Or why not juxtapose soft cashmere with leather?

You can actually make use of silk blouses and sweaters. But if your goal is to stay toasty, it's better to bring items made of cashmere, angora, mohair and the like.

Okay, okay so it's not that big a deal, after all. With a bit of organization and imagination, packing can be a no-brainer. No need to stress out. The rewards of any trip far outweigh the inconveniences of packing, anyway.

E-mail the author at ...

To pack or not to pack?

Think of your wardrobe as your closet and ask yourself the following questions before packing a particular article of clothing:

1. How much room does it take up?
2. Does it match with other pieces you are bringing?
3. Will it go day into evening?
4. Can you wash it by hand?
5. Can you wear it more than once?
6. Does it wrinkle easily?



BROWN faux fur coat by Zara; dark blue denim jeans by Cherokee Clothing Co.; brown leather knee-high boots by Nine West; bronze Suede Duffel Luggage by Louis Vuitton; "The Wonder Prophecy" by Spice Berry, available at National Book Store.



LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY

Trendy tresses, UK style



WORLD Fusion reveals multicultural influences.



GOTHIC Luxury celebrates the mythical and the dramatic.

WELLAS TREND Vision 2006 taps international artist Beverly C. of Great Britain to interpret playful contrasts in hairstyle creations that will be unveiled via a special presentation on March 6. The affair will be Wella's lead event for this year's Philippine Fashion Week.

Beverly C. is a top stylist and manager of two very popular London "hi-salons." She is a deft hand at creating sensational hairstyles frequently featured in magazines such as the British editions of Elle and Vogue.

"I think Trend Vision is a marvelous idea, because it sets the benchmark in terms of innovation and trend awareness. For me, this trend project from Wella is both an inspiration and a source of ideas," she says.

Trend Vision's lineup for 2006 includes Techno Nature, with its symbiosis of nature and technology, and Real Daydream, which weaves harmony between nostalgia and the present day.

World Fusion, a favorite of Beverly C., reveals multicultural influences, imaginative patterns and vibrant hues blending into one vibrant kaleidoscope. Gothic Luxury, meanwhile, reflects a yearning for the mythical and the dramatic.

The special presentation of Trend Vision 2006 by Beverly C. and her artistic team will be held on March 6, 6:30 p.m., at Rizal Ballrooms A and B of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.



BEVERLY C. IN ACTION: The expert is adept at creating sensational hairstyles often featured in international fashion magazines.

"THANKS TO VISA, WE'RE GOING TO HONG KONG DISNEYLAND!"



The seven lucky winners of the **"Enjoy the magic of Hong Kong Disneyland"** promo, along with three family members or friends of their choice, will be traveling to Hong Kong Disneyland for two days of fun and adventure.

The winners participated in Visa's promotion that ran from 27 November 2005 to 24 January 2006. One lucky winner was drawn each week. All Philippine-issued Visa and Visa Electron cardholders that made a minimum purchase of P500 during the promotion period were entitled to join by registering via SMS, the internet or call centre.

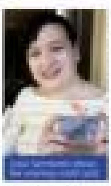
Each winner will be receiving a paid trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland, including airfare, a two-night stay at the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel, Character Breakfasts, 8 theme park fast passes and HK$5,000 in pocket money.

"*Being the world's leading payment network, we strive to make payments as fun and rewarding as possible. While cardholders enjoy the convenience and security of making payments through Visa cards, this promo also gives them the opportunity to experience a truly magical family vacation which only Disney can offer,*" said Visa International Country Manager for the Philippines, James Dixon.

Visa International and Hong Kong Disneyland have launched an alliance that makes Visa the Official Card of Asia's premiere theme park. The alliance is an extension of the global alliance between Visa and Disney.

The lucky winners are:

Josie Sarmiento, Certified Public Accountant. Winner of the first lucky draw on 13 December 2005



"*We are all looking forward to the trip to Hong Kong Disneyland. Ever since it opened we have been curious on how nice and wonderful it must be. I'm sure we will have lots of fun as a family during the trip.*"

The Sarmientos will be traveling as a whole family with mom Josie, dad Emmy, son Jerico and daughter Kate. Josie has been using Visa credit cards since 1990 to pay for everything from groceries to medical expenses.



"*Using my Visa card allows me to keep track of monthly expenses. It acts as my record keeper. It's also so convenient to have a Visa card when you're traveling since it's accepted internationally.*"



Dr. John Carl Caparas, Physician. Winner of the second lucky draw on 20 December 2005



"*My nephews and nieces all love watching the Disney channel and getting a chance to go to Hong Kong Disneyland is a dream come true for them.*"

John will be going to Hong Kong Disneyland with niece Pier Angelique, 16, nephew Alexis Kim, 9 and mom Araceli.

John has been using his Visa debit card for more than 5 years now and also carries around a Visa credit card in case he has to make any unplanned purchases.

"*I usually use my Visa debit card when going grocery shopping. It saves me from having to line up at the ATM machine to withdraw cash.*"

Juvy Ong, Comptroller, Cebu City.
Winner of the third lucky draw on 27 December 2005

"I've long been planning a Disney vacation for the kids. Thanks to Visa we are going for FREE!"

For Juvy, a family vacation she has been dreaming about is now a reality. This summer she will be traveling with son Bryan, 14, and daughters Jasmine, 12, and Jeannine, 8.

"Ever since I could remember, I've been watching Disney movies. My favorite is The Lion King! I can't wait to go to Hong Kong Disneyland for the first time!" eldest son Bryan shares.

Juvy regularly uses her Visa card when going shopping.

"Using my Visa card makes paying for items I purchased so much more convenient. I don't need to be carrying a lot of cash all the time and that makes me feel safer."



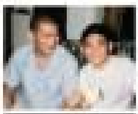
Juvy Ong with Shem | (L-R) children Jeannine, Jasmine and Bryan

Inigo Generoso, College Student.
Winner of the fourth lucky draw on 3 January 2006

"What I like most about Visa cards is that it's accepted almost anywhere. Unlike other cards that I've used before, I don't have to worry about having enough cash for gassing up or paying for other expenses."

Inigo, a supplementary card holder of his parents', uses his Visa card to gas up on his way to school everyday. He also uses it to pay for items that are not covered by his allowance such as school supplies, books and other needs. Little did he know that that would provide him with an opportunity to travel with his loved ones.

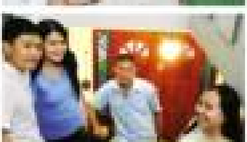
"We're all really excited and this is going to be a really good way to start off the summer vacation. This is the first time the four of us will be traveling together – it's going to be a great bonding experience."





Inigo Generoso with his winning card





Inigo with Mikaela, Ericka and Anton

Inigo, 21, will be joined on the trip by sister Mikaela Generoso, 16, cousin Anton Ruiz, 19, and aunt Ericka Baltos. Inigo and company will be the youngest group among all the winners with Ericka at 26 providing the required "adult" supervision.

"Even though I'm the designated adult for the trip, going to Hong Kong Disneyland is an opportunity to be a kid again," shares Ericka.

Lina Castro
Winner of the fifth lucky draw on 10 January 2006

Upon learning that she had won a free trip to Hong Kong Disneyland, *"Great! This is great! Wow!"* was all she could say. Lyn was in the middle of a meeting and could not believe that she had actually won a trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland.

Lyn will be traveling with brother Carlos Valencia, daughter Karen, 18, and a lucky godson of her choice. She has had a Visa credit card since 1994 and has used it extensively when shopping, both in the Philippines and abroad.



Lina Castro with daughter Karen

"My Visa card provides me a sense of security when I'm going shopping, especially when I'm traveling abroad."

Jeanne Co, mother of four.
Winner of the sixth lucky draw on 17 January 2006

"My kids just love Disney cartoons and movies. For them to have a chance to see their favorite Disney characters live will be an experience they won't soon forget. I'm sure we'll all have a great time."

"I'm really excited to go to Hong Kong Disneyland. We'll get to see Mickey Mouse, he makes me laugh!" says Jeanne's daughter Shem.

Jeanne will be bringing along husband Sam, daughter Shem, 10, and son Josh, 7. Jeanne and her husband regularly use their Visa cards for a variety of needs. Raising four children involves a unforeseen expenditures and their Visa card helps them manage their finances better.



"Our Visa card is really a big help for us. It makes paying and tracking our expenses much easier."



Chito's brother Aji with wife Jing and son Jepoy

Chito del Rosario, Merchandising Manager.
Winner of the seventh lucky draw on 24 January 2006



Chito del Rosario

A Visa cardholder since 1995 Chito has tested the limits and possibilities of his Visa card and is more than satisfied with the results. He once even went on a trip to Singapore and lasted the whole trip without using any cash.

"I use my Visa card for almost anything - paying for utilities and other monthly bills, groceries, shopping, gas and other car expenses. It's just so much more convenient than using cash, especially when you're traveling."

On the trip to Hong Kong Disneyland, Chito will be going with his brother Aji, sister-in-law Jing and their son Jepoy, 5. Their sister Irene will also join them in the adventure.

"This is a great opportunity for us to have some family bonding time. We all have busy lives here in Manila and a trip to Hong Kong Disneyland is a great way to unwind and relax. We're all excited for Jepoy since it will be his first time to go to Disneyland."

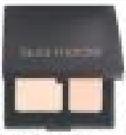
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MAKEOVER 911

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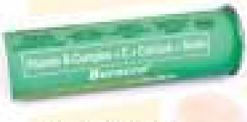


LifeStyle

FASHION

Editors' Picks

Jerni's picks



AVOID the sniffles by taking Berocca vitamin tablets.



THE MOONDROPS foundation travel kit by Shu Uemura covers all your beauty needs from anti-aging skincare products to basic makeup.



KEEP track of time with this Mossimo watch with suede straps by Aesson.

Getaway gear

You don't have to pack everything in your closet plus the kitchen sink when prepping for a trip. Simply tote these travel must-haves (and some moolah or plastic, of course!) to experience the great adventure of your dreams.

-AAI

Apples' picks



MOISTURIZE your skin with the Bodyshop's bodylicious Strawberry Body Butter.



LIP BALM #1 by Kiehl's will keep those kissers smooth and hydrated.



THIS STRIPED carry-all by Aco, from the Travel Club, is both practical and fashionably chic.



STAY warm with a neutral-colored wool sweater by Zara that will match anything in your suitcase.

MALE MAKEOVER MALE MAKEOVER MALE MAKEOVER MALE MAKEOVER MALE MAKEOVER



FOLLOW THE LEADER. [illegible]

Tech whiz meets style prince



Before

THE TARGET [illegible]

Jaywee Fernandez has yet to perfect his signature style, but he's not about to give up trying

By Alex Y. Vergara

Target: Jaywee Fernandez, 26-year-old technophile
Mission: [illegible]

LIKE MOST PEOPLE HIS AGE, Jose Maria Vicente "Jaywee" Fernandez thrives in multi-tasking. In other words, he's a man who wears many hats.

[illegible]

Game for grooming

[illegible]



PREP WORK. [illegible]



COLOR HIM BROWN. [illegible]

E-mail the author [illegible]



OFF THE WALL. [illegible]



WALK THE WALK. [illegible]



BUSY DOES IT. [illegible]

Sham luxury

By Alex T. Fergus

IF IMITATION IS THE BEST form of flattery, then people behind such European luxury brands as Louis Vuitton, Hermes and Gucci, to name a few, should be beaming from ear to ear over how hot their products have become worldwide.

But nothing can be further from the truth.

Hierarchy

Unfair







In the hierarchy of counterfeits, there are ... there are the Grade-A stuff that ... except the ...

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